

UPDATED INFORMATIVE DIGEST

These proposed regulations amend specific provisions in the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Manual of Policies and Procedures (MPP) that regulate eligibility for pregnant teens and special needs in the CalWORKs program.

Prior law allowed a pregnant woman with no other eligible child in the home to be eligible for CalWORKs cash aid and \$47 in pregnancy special needs (PSN) payments beginning in the third trimester of her pregnancy. The exception to this rule was when the pregnant woman was also eligible for the Cal-Learn program. The Cal-Learn is a statewide program for pregnant and parenting teens in the CalWORKs program designed to encourage pregnant and parenting teens to graduate from high school or its equivalent, become independent, and form healthy families. A pregnant woman who was eligible for Cal-Learn was also eligible for cash aid and PSN at any time after providing medical verification of her pregnancy and not limited to the last trimester of her pregnancy. A pregnant teen who was age 18 or younger and who had graduated from high school or obtained a high school diploma or its equivalent, would not be eligible for CalWORKs or PSN payments until her third trimester.

Assembly Bill 1640 (Chapter 778, Statutes of 2012) expanded eligibility to pregnant teens age 18 or younger, with no other eligible children in the home, to be eligible for CalWORKs cash aid and \$47 in PSN payments upon verification of pregnancy.

Assembly Bill 1579 (Chapter 632, Statutes of 2014) changed eligibility to pregnant women age 19 or older, with no other eligible children in the home, to be eligible for CalWORKs cash aid and \$47 in PSN payments beginning in the second trimester of pregnancy.

This regulatory action will benefit CalWORKs families who have a pregnant teen age 18 or younger, with no other eligible children in the home, to receive CalWORKs cash aid and \$47 PSN payment, upon verification of pregnancy. It will also allow a pregnant woman age 19 or older, with no other eligible children in the home, to be eligible for CalWORKs cash aid and \$47 in PSN payments beginning in the second trimester of pregnancy if all other conditions of eligibility are met.

These regulations were considered at the public hearing held on May 12, 2016 in Sacramento, California. Written testimony was received during the 45-day comment period.

Upon further review of the regulations and as a result the testimony received, Section 44-211.633 is amended to remove the requirement of a pregnant teen age 18 or younger of having a high school diploma or its equivalent in order to qualify for the PSN and to better comply with Welfare and Institutions Code section 11450(b)(1). Also Section 44-211.61 is amended to clarify when the second trimester of pregnancy begins.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 11346.8, a 15-day renote and complete text of modifications made to the regulations were made available to the public following the public hearing. The renote period was from December 19, 2016 to January 4, 2017. There were no comments received as a result of the renote and no further amendments have been made to the regulations.